

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 - 24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A connector shell for a connector component of a connector arrangement for a wire cable comprising:
- a housing including first contact elements,
 - the housing being provided with at least one first guiding element having an axis for guiding the housing along a second guiding element of a mating connector component of the connector arrangement upon coupling with the mating connector component allowing alignment of the first contact elements with mating second contact elements of the mating connector component prior to their making mechanical contact with each other, and
 - at least one fastening element associated ~~[[to]]~~ with the at least one first guiding element and substantially aligned with the axis of the at least one first guiding element for engagement with the second guiding element of the mating connector component.
26. (Currently Amended) The connector shell according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein the fastening element is secured to at least one of the housing and the at least one first guiding element of the housing.
27. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein the fastening element extends through a passageway formed in a portion of the at least one first guiding element of the housing for engagement with the second guiding element of the mating connector component.
28. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according ~~claim 3~~ claim 27, wherein the passageway is axially aligned with the at least one first guiding element.

29. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein the fastening element comprises a shaft extending through a passageway formed in a portion of the at least one first guiding element of the housing, the shaft comprising a head and a thickened portion both located outside of and adjacent to opposite ends of the passageway.
30. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 29, wherein the fastening element is axially movable within the passageway by a distance defined by the abutment of each of the head and the thickened portion of the fastening element to the respective opposite ends of the passageway.
31. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein the at least one first guiding element comprising a receiving channel for receiving the second guiding element of the mating connector component.
32. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 31, wherein the receiving channel comprises a receiving opening and an end arranged opposite thereto and through which the passageway for the fastening element extends.
33. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein the housing comprises two first guiding elements at opposite sides of the housing and wherein to each first guiding element a fastening element is associated.
34. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein the second guiding element of the mating connector component comprises a receiving portion for receiving a portion of the fastening element associated to the at least one first guiding element for fastening the housing to the second guiding element of the mating connector component.
35. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 34, wherein the receiving portion comprises a receiving bore.
36. (Currently Amended) Connector shell according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 34, wherein the receiving portion comprises a receiving pin.

37. (Currently Amended) A mating connector component for connecting to the connector shell of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 25, comprising at least one second guiding element along which the at least one first guiding element of the housing of the connector shell is guidable, the second guiding element comprising a receiving portion for receiving a portion of the fastener element of the connecting shell.
38. (Currently Amended) The connector component according to ~~claim 17~~ claim 37, wherein the receiving portion comprises a receiving bore.
39. (Currently Amended) The connector component according to ~~claim 17~~ claim 37, wherein the receiving portion comprises a receiving pin.
40. (Currently Amended) The connector component according to ~~claim 17~~ claim 37, further comprising a housing and/or a face plate, in particular a backplane to which the at least one second guiding element is attached or attachable.
41. (Currently Amended) The connector component according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, further comprising at least one electrical contact element to be electrically connected to a contact element of the connector shell.